

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for informalities. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,822,214 issued to Rostocker, et al. ("Rostocker"). In this Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims 1, 8, 15-16 and 18. However, Applicants have not added or canceled any claim. Accordingly, claims 1-18 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

I. Objection to Claim 1

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the term "interconnect lines have ends that are in shape of a partial non-quadrilateral polygons" is unclear as to what it means within the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the term is clear as to what it means within the specification. In some embodiments, the term may mean an interconnect line that has an end that is in the shape of a partial octagon. *See Specification, page 5, lines 12-15; see also Specification, page 99, line 9 through page 101, line 6; see also Figures 63-69.*

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 1.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-18 under §102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under §102(b) as being unpatentable over Rostoker. Claims 2-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on independent claim 1. Claim 1 recites an integrated circuit ("IC") layout that includes a net with routable elements. The IC layout further includes a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the

routable elements of the net, where the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Rostoker does not disclose, teach, or even suggest such an IC layout. In the Office Action, the Examiner implicitly stated that the cells described in Rostoker are interconnect lines. However, Rostoker's cells are not interconnect lines. Rostoker describes ICs that includes cells. These cells have the shape of hexagons, triangles and/or parallelograms. *See Rostoker, column 21, line 61 through column 22, line 3; see also Rostoker, Figure 11.* Each cell includes several terminals for connecting with terminals of other cells. *See Rostoker, column 1, lines 44-46.* These terminals are connected by interconnect lines. Therefore, Rostoker's cells are not interconnect lines. While, Rostoker describes interconnect lines in many instances, none of these interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Rostoker does not render claim 1 unpatentable. As claims 2-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-18 are patentable over Rostoker for at least the reasons that were discussed above for claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-18.

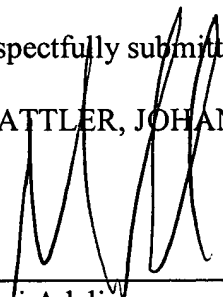
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims, namely claims 1-18, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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